

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-50 (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

adding a first gas to an enclosure having a second gas through an inlet port having a plurality of discrete openings arranged [[a shape]] to distribute a flow of the first gas over a length of a side of the enclosure, the first gas having a different composition than the second gas, the enclosure being between a mask protective device, a patterned mask, and walls connecting the mask protective device with the patterned mask; and

removing at least a portion of the second gas from the enclosure through one or more outlet ports.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the inlet port comprises a slit in a wall.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said removing comprises removing the second gas by vacuum.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through an inlet port that is smaller than an outlet port.

Claims 56-63 (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the openings of the inlet port are on said side of the enclosure [[said adding comprises adding the first gas through a plurality of openings of the inlet port inlet ports, which are on the side]].
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through at least five openings of the inlet port.
66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein [[said adding comprises adding the first gas through a]] the plurality of openings of the inlet port [[that]] are arranged to encourage plug flow through the enclosure.
67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said adding and said removing comprise adding the first gas by diffusion and removing the second gas by diffusion.
68. (Currently Amended) [[The method of claim 67]] A method comprising:

adding a first gas to an enclosure having a second gas through an inlet port having a shape to distribute a flow of the first gas over a length of a side of the enclosure, the first gas having a different composition than the second gas, the enclosure being between a mask protective device, a patterned mask, and walls connecting the mask protective device with the patterned mask;

removing at least a portion of the second gas from the enclosure through one or more outlet ports,

wherein said adding and said removing comprise adding the first gas by diffusion and removing the second gas by diffusion; and

[[,further comprising]] heating a gas in the enclosure to increase a diffusion coefficient.

69. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

adding a first gas to an enclosure including a second gas through a vent including a plurality of openings to distribute a flow of the first gas over a length of a side of the enclosure, the first gas having less total oxygen and carbon than the second gas, the enclosure being between a pellicle, a mask, and walls connecting the pellicle with the mask; and

removing at least a portion of the second gas from the enclosure.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through a slit in a wall.
71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said [[adding comprises adding the first gas through a plurality of]] openings are in a wall.
72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein two or more of the plurality of openings are on a same side of the enclosure.
73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through an inlet opening that is smaller than an outlet opening used to remove the second gas.
74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through at least five openings of the vent.
75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the at least five openings are on a same side of the enclosure.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through a plurality of openings that are arranged to encourage plug flow through the enclosure.
77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said removing comprises removing the second gas by creating a vacuum in the enclosure.
78. (New) A method comprising:
- adding a first gas to an enclosure having a second gas through one or more slits aligned with a length of a side of the enclosure to distribute a flow of the first gas over the length of the side of the enclosure, the first gas having a different composition than the second gas, the enclosure being between a mask protective device, a patterned mask, and walls connecting the mask protective device with the patterned mask; and
- removing at least a portion of the second gas from the enclosure through one or more outlet ports.
79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through a plurality of slits.
80. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein said removing the second gas comprises removing the second gas through one or more slits.